

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 5-27 are pending with Claims 1-3 and 5-8 being independent. Claims 5-8 are withdrawn from consideration, leaving Claims 1-3 and 9-27 open for prosecution with Claims 1-3 being independent. Claims 28-32 are cancelled. Claims 1-3, 9, 10, 12, and 15-20 are amended. Amendments are supported by the specification as originally filed. No new matter has been added.

A. 35 U.S.C. § 112 REJECTIONS

Claims 30-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. These claims are cancelled, and the limitations of Claims 30 and 31 are incorporated into independent Claims 2 and 3, respectively, with appropriate clarification.

B. 35 U.S.C. § 103 REJECTIONS OVER SHI IN VIEW OF XIE

Claims 1-4, 10-14, 16-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,645,948 to Shi et al. ("Shi") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0215667 A1 to Xie ("Xie").

Applicant disagrees with this rejection.

Independent Claim 1 is amended to recite in part:

wherein, in the host material:

R₁ is a hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group, an aryl group which may have a substituent, or a heterocyclic group which may have a substituent,

three of R₂ to R₅, each of which may be the same or different, are individually a halogen atom, a lower alkyl group, an alkoxy group, an acyl group, a nitro group, a cyano group, an amino group, a dialkylamino group, a diarylamino group, a vinyl group which may have a substituent, an aryl group which may have a substituent, or a heterocyclic group which may have a substituent, and Ar₁ is an aryl group which may have a substituent, or a heterocyclic group which may have a substituent, and one of R₂ to R₅ is a hydrogen atom.

Independent Claims 2 and 3 are similarly amended. Formula 2 of Claim 2 is also amended to include substituent X₁, as shown in general formula (2) of the originally filed application.

Thus, for the host material of Claims 1-3, three substituents on the fused six-membered ring of the benzimidazole are other than hydrogen.

Shi teaches two non-hydrogen substituents on the fused six-membered ring of the benzimidazole of the host material.¹ *Shi*, col. 8, ll. 10-28, col. 13, and col. 15.

The combination of the cited art does not teach or suggest a host material with three substituents other than hydrogen on the fused six-membered ring of the benzimidazole, as recited in independent Claims 1-3.

For at least this reason, independent Claims 1-3, and Claims 10-14 and 16-24 dependent therefrom, are not obvious over *Shi* in view of *Xie*. Applicant respectfully requests removal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections of Claims 1-3, 10-14, and 16-24 over *Shi* in view of *Xie*.

C. 35 U.S.C. § 103 REJECTIONS OVER SHI IN VIEW OF XIE AND FURTHER IN VIEW OF OKADA

Claims 9 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over *Shi* in view of *Xie* and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0055014 to Okada et al. ("*Okada*").

Applicant disagrees with this rejection.

Claims 9 and 15 depend from independent Claim 3. For at least the reasons discussed in Section B above, Claim 3 is patentable over *Shi* in view of *Xie*. *Okada* does teach or suggest the host material of Claim 3, with three substituents other than hydrogen on the fused six-membered ring of the benzimidazole. Thus, the combination of the cited art does not teach or suggest at least the features of independent Claim 3 or Claims 9 and 15 dependent therefrom. As such, Applicant respectfully requests removal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections of Claims 9 and 15 over *Shi* in view of *Xie* and further in view of *Okada*.

¹ Applicants note that *Shi* refers to "R" of Formula 1. *Shi*, col. 29, l. 10. "R," however, is not shown in Formula 1. *Shi*, col. 29, l. 5.

D. 35 U.S.C. § 103 REJECTIONS OVER SHI IN VIEW OF XIE AND FURTHER IN VIEW OF KAWAMI

Claims 25-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over *Shi* in view of *Xie* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,929,561 to Kawami et al. ("*Kawami*").

Applicant disagrees with this rejection.

Claim 28 has been cancelled. Claims 25-27 depend from independent Claims 1-3, respectively. For at least the reasons discussed in Section B above, Claims 1-3 are patentable over *Shi* in view of *Xie*. *Kawami* does teach or suggest the host material of Claims 1-3, with three substituents other than hydrogen on the fused six-membered ring of the benzimidazole. Thus, the combination of the cited art does not teach or suggest at least the features of independent Claims 1-3 or Claims 25-27 dependent therefrom. Applicants respectfully request the removal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections of Claims 25-27 over *Shi* in view of *Xie* and further in view of *Kawami*.

E. CONCLUSIONS

All claims in the application are now in condition for allowance.

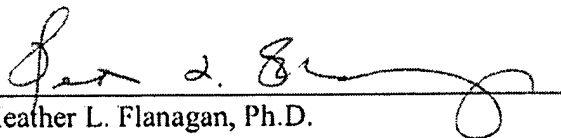
Fees are being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System (EFS) by way of Deposit Account authorization. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050, referencing Attorney Docket No. 12732-0220001.

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Respectfully submitted,

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